

Saint Louis Audubon

BULLETIN

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SEPTEMBER 1952

AUDUBON PICNICS - PAST AND FUTURE

All members of the St. Louis Audubon Society who attended the spring picnics at the homes of Mrs. Charles Rice and of Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar Palm had such a pleasant and enjoyable time that we wish, through the medium of our Bulletin, to thank our member hosts for their generous hospitality. Because of the success of these picnics, we are planning even more such events for next season.

The Sanctuary of Mrs. Rice, in the foothills of the Ozarks, is a beauty spot which ranks with the gardens of Bellingrath, Natchez and Charleston. It has a fine spring, lovely stream, beautiful ravine, hills covered with dogwood, shrubs and flowers growing luxuriantly. We noticed particularly the bird's foot violet, Indian paintbrush, columbine and also a phoebe's nest on the bluff. We shall remember for a long time the smell of the deep woods, the sound of the clear running stream, the birds flying about, the clear air, bright sunshine and blue skies.

Although the weather was unsettled the evening we visited the Palm's home high above the Meramec River, all can remember with pleasure the wind sweeping over the hilltop, and the quietness on the ledge where the nesting birds were found. We found enjoyment in their many books on ornithology and outdoor living, and in the fine plant collection. Those who used the barbeque stand and tasted the hot coffee had quite a treat. After the full moon rose we watched the birds fly across the face of the moon, through the telescopes of David Jones and Arthur Lieser.

This year there will be more picnics. The first is to be held on Sunday, October 5, at the Principia College, Elsah, Illinois. Conducted walks with John Wanamaker will begin at 9 a.m. The purpose is to derive additional income for the St. Louis Audubon Society. The cost is \$1.00 for adults, free to children under 16, and guests are welcome. Elsah, Illinois, is located approximately ten miles northwest of Alton, Illinois. (Follow State Highway No. 100 and watch for our signs.) Bring a picnic lunch. REMEMBER: Do not pick the wildflowers, or break shrubs or trees. Pick up all your scraps of paper and other picnic materials.

The second picnic will be at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar A. Palm on Sunday, November 2, 4 to 10 p.m. Location: Near Big Bend Boulevard, approximately 3.5 miles west of Lindbergh Boulevard. Telescopes will be available to watch the silhouettes of migrating birds as they fly across the full moon. The third picnic will be at the Charles M. Rice Sanctuary on Sunday, April 12, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: Near Antonio, Mo., Highway 21, approximately 25 miles south of Lindbergh Boulevard.

FIRST SCREEN TOUR

Laurel Reynolds will present on Thursday, October 23, "Western Discovery". It is a story of exploration along the Pacific Coast from Mexico to Puget Sound featuring elephant seals, killer whales, auklets, shore birds, wild geese and ducks. In it there is the fabulous beauty and variety of the West, human interest and delightful humor. Mrs. Reynolds, a Californian since her childhood, now lives in Piedmont with her two children and physician-husband whose hobby has always been bird study. She has produced several well known color motion pictures on scenery and wildlife of the United States. Preparation for her present career as wildlife photographer and nationwide lecturer was unintentional. Her reputation just grew along with the excellence of her originally avocational work.

The Auditorium will be the Third Baptist Church—newly rebuilt at Grand and Washington. The time will be 8:15 p.m.

1952-53 FIELD TRIPS

As one part of our program for this year, we are scheduling field trips. We want to present the opportunity to visit all the good birding areas. These trips will begin at 8 a.m. and last one to two hours unless the leader decides differently.

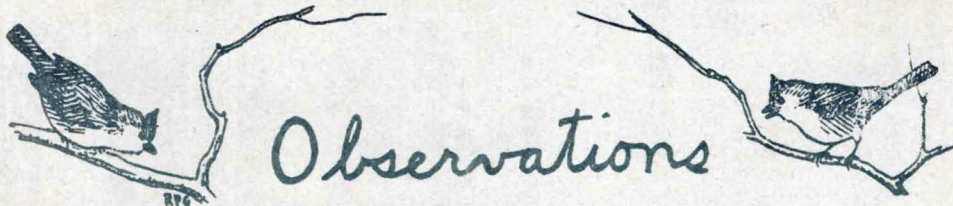
The first field trip will be at Rockwoods Reservation on September 21. George and Polly Moore will meet the group at the Museum. Rockwoods Reservation is on Highway No. 50, approximately fifteen miles west of Lindbergh Boulevard. Later trips are as follows:

Field Trips	Date-Time	Meeting Point	Leader
Weber Lake	Sat. Sept. 27, 8 a.m.	West end St. Charles Bridge	Mr. & Mrs. George Graff
Taussig Ave.	Sun. Oct. 19, 8 a.m.	East end St. Charles Bridge	Earl Comfort
Horseshoe Lake	Sun. Oct. 26, 8 a.m.	Junction U.S. 40 & Ill. No. 111	Arthur Bennett
Dupo	Sun. Nov. 23, 8 a.m.	Junction of Ill. No. 157 and No. 3	Julian Neill
Swan Lake	Sun. Nov. 30, 8 a.m.	311 Prospect, Alton, Illinois	Mr. & Mrs. O.C.K. Hutchinson
Weldon Springs	Sun. Dec. 14, 8 a.m.	Lodge on Area	Jim Comfort
Christmas Bird Census	Sun. Dec. 28, 7 a.m.	516 Bacon, Webster Groves	Marshall Magner
Grand Marais State Pk.	Sun. Jan. 4, 8 a.m.	Restaurant on Ill. No. 157 in Park	Dick Anderson
Chain of Rocks Area	Sun. Jan. 18, 8 a.m.	West end Chain of Rocks Bridge	Mark Tuttle
Dardeene Marsh	Sun. Mar. 15, 8 a.m.	West end St. Charles Bridge	David Jones
Forest Park	Sun. April 19, 26 May 3, 10 7:30 a.m.	Jefferson Memorial	Martin Schweig, Jr.
Shaw's Garden	Sat. April 18, 25 8 a.m.	Main Gate	Lois & Camille Wamhoff
Spring Census	Sun. May 3	Individual trips	Martin Schweig, Jr.
Creve Coeur Lake	Sun. May 17, 7 a.m.	Refreshment Stand	Beulah Bedell

For directions see **Guide to St. Louis Birding Areas**. For complete details, call Leader of Field Trip, or Mrs. Marshall Magner, Webster 0265W.

1952 STATE AUDUBON MEETING

The annual meeting of the State Audubon Society will be held at Lake Ozark State Park, Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12. Reservations are required if you desire overnight accommodations outside the park. Camping in the Park is permitted. For reservations call Jim Comfort, Webster 6231.



A NEW BIRD RECORD FOR ST. LOUIS COUNTY

by William G. Conway

Sunday, August 9, 1951, in the course of a St. Louis birding trip my wife and I came upon a group of five birds answering the description of the curlew sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*). When the birds were first sighted, they were feeding in a flooded field on the south side of Creve Coeur Mill road about 500 yards east of Marine Avenue. Along with these birds, one greater yellow-legs and three lesser-yellow-legs formed a small group.

At first we naturally expected these rare birds to be the more common redbacked sandpiper. Following our custom, however, I left the car and advanced across the field to make as close an observation as possible as well as to obtain a "flight pattern." The birds proved very difficult to flush and allowed me to approach within a distance of about thirty-five feet before taking wing; and then flew only a few feet away. Close observation disclosed something unusual in the whitish rump and evenly curving bill, as well as in the comparatively little streaked breast. Consequently, a counsel of identification was held, and the birds were again approached with the intention of determining the presence or absence of a white rump patch. On this occasion the birds proved very hard to flush and merely ran short distances in response to my very wildest gesticulations, and I was eventually forced to resort to the time honored political practice of mudslinging. Eventually my efforts were rewarded with a nice flight which allowed my wife and me to confirm our curlew sandpiper suspicions.

Of course, these birds were in winter plumage and, as most authorities point out, may be easily mistaken for the red-backed sandpiper. However, there are several well marked differences; the most diagnostic of which is the solid whitish rump of the curlew sandpiper in contrast to the white bordered dark rump found in the red-backed sandpiper. The unusual bill, of course, narrows the field immediately; that of the red-backed sandpiper is generally straighter and decurved primarily at the tip, while that of the curlew sandpiper is more evenly decurved throughout its length.

Of this bird's occurrence in North America, Forbush says, it has been recorded in Alaska, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, New England, New York, and New Jersey. Thus far it has only been reported in this country about twenty-five times, although Forbush goes on to suggest that this species may occur here more often than present records indicate. A contribution by Jourdain in Bent again emphasizes the uncommonness of this species and points out its close traveling relationship with the red-backed sandpiper, which, however, was not present in this group. This record, in St. Louis County, appears, insofar as we have been able to ascertain, the westernmost record of the species in the United States.

(Reprint from the "Bluebird")

✓ Feb. 14, Saturday Starts Promptly 2-4 p.m.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT ST. LOUIS ZOO

WILLIAM CONWAY, Chairman
at: Bird House, Forest Park

An unusual privilege—visiting the Zoo Bird House under the
personal guidance of the Bird House Director



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This issue edited by Mrs. Marshall Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENT

Richard P. Grossenheider, well known member of the St. Louis Audubon Society has with Dr. William H. Burt published an outstanding book, the field Guide to the Mammals. In it you will find the field marks of all species found north of the Mexican boundary. There are 187 species beautifully illustrated in full color in addition to photographs and distribution maps. It is a book worth owning. Price \$3.75

AUTOGRAPH PARTY

An autograph party in honor of Dick Grossenheider will be held on Saturday afternoon, September 27, 3 to 6 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hope, 9321 Old Bonhomme Road. Dick will be present to autograph copies of the Field Guide to the Mammals which he has illustrated, and which has received national recognition. Every Audubon member should own a copy of this informative book. The original plates illustrating the Field Guide will be on display. Refreshments will be served and Dick will personally autograph all copies purchased during these hours. Come out and congratulate Dick on this splendid achievement.

SYD HECKLER RESIGNS

On June 30, 1952, Syd Heckler resigned as Executive Secretary of the St. Louis Audubon Society. He has joined the staff of the National Audubon Society as Associate Director of Audubon Screen Tours. While we regret to lose Syd, we shall continue to see him and the results of his work at the Screen Tour Programs.

The Board has chosen Mrs. Marshall Wagner as his successor. Her work will be augmented by a group of standing committees whose active participation is expected to widen public interest in the Society.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

(And invite your friends to join, too.)

Active memberships are \$2.00. Screen Tour Memberships are an additional \$3.00, and Sponsor Screen Tour Memberships which include a reserved seat are \$6.00. Patron Screen Tour Memberships which include reserved Screen Tour seats for the whole family are \$50.00. Use the yellow application blank, or enclose in an envelope the name, address, and amount of money the new member wishes to contribute. Mail to Mrs. Marshall Wagner, 516 Bacon Avenue, Webster Groves 19, Mo.

CORRECTION - Field Trip Dates - Taussig Avenue, October 12.
State Audubon Meeting, October 18-19.